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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Peasant Uprising in Hunan

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1. On 13 April 200 peasants armed with swords and led by CHOU Ko-chuan (周克全) attacked a rural government office at Yahsihsiang (西鄉), Hanshou (111-57, 28-58), killing a militiaman and capturing the chairman of the rural peasant's union and four public security personnel. At the same time another group of 300 peasants armed with swords surrounded the public security outpost at Yuchiang (西港), about one li from Yahsihsiang. They killed the platoon commander KU Han-ch'eng (谷漢成), the deputy platoon commander HO Ch'ang-yun (何長雲), and 15 privates. They also captured over 20 rifles and freed 40 prisoners.
2. On 14 April the Communists mobilized 2,000 troops from Hanshou, Yuanchiang (沅江), Ch'angte (111-32, 29-02), and Iyang (112-20, 28-43), and surrounded the Yuchiang area. In fighting which lasted a day and night, CHOU Ko-chuan and 47 others were killed. Other leaders, including HSU Hsien-fa (徐先發), WANG T'ien-pao (王天寶), YANG Jun-ho (楊潤豪), HSIUNG Ting-pang (熊頂邦), and HAN Kuang-k'uei (韓光貴), and over 580 peasants were captured. The Communists also found a roster with the names of 1,500 peasants involved in the uprising at the home of CHOU Ko-chuan. These peasants had been organized into a religious body called the "Society for the Study of Religious Philosophy," with a platform opposed to oppression, grain levy, and military conscription.
3. A peasant uprising was incited when rural cadre members of Hoihsiang (何一鄉) recklessly arrested over 30 local peasants, including HSIEH Pin (謝斌) and HSIEH Hai-lin (謝海林), on 24 March on a charge of being Nationalist agents. When other peasants were unable to obtain their release, 600 of them armed with swords and hunting guns surrounded the rural government, and released all the prisoners. Over 800 public security troops from Wukang (武岡) and Hoihsiang arrived to suppress the riot. After a short fight the peasants were dispersed but over 360 of them were arrested.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

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